

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

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The KICKER can do no less than hope for one and all a happy and prosperous year. In a large degree this is a vain hope—owing to the unfair and unjust social conditions and the treachery and dishonesty of men entrusted with high public duties.

But the KICKER hopes for a change. "It is a long line that has no turn." The immortal Declaration of Independence, penned by that great commoner, Thomas Jefferson, reads:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Some day the masses will conclude that "all men are created equal" and that all have a right to LIVE—not merely to exist. Some day they will conclude that this government by trusts is "destructive of these ends" and will proceed to "alter or to abolish it." The Hon. Louis Houck has already sounded the warning to organized capital that "some day the railroads will go like the nigger."

As for the KICKER, its future appears unexpectedly bright. Perhaps no country paper ever started with such healthy support from the start and such flattering prospects. And this support comes right from where it is most appreciated—from the farmers and producers. In return we shall give them a good, newsy paper.

THE RAILROAD QUESTION.

In self-defense the people must take charge of the railroads, telegraphs and other like public service corporations. There is not a producer of this or any country who is not compelled to pay his share of the dividends on railroad stock. When he buys goods at the store the extortionate passenger rate of the merchant who goes to the city, and the extortionate freight rate for carrying the goods, is added to the sale price of the goods he buys. When he sells his produce the extortionate freight rate necessary to carry it to market is deducted from the price paid him. Like the nigger's con trap, they catch him going and coming.

How long will the people stand this "larceny by law," as Mr. Bryan puts it. In a recent interview the Hon. Louis Houck expressed himself in favor of the public ownership of railroads. Whether or not he was sincere the editor does not know. But Mr. Houck continued: "I have warned railroad managers that, some day, the railroads would go as did the nigger."

Imagine what that means, reader! "Some day the railroads will go as did the nigger!" Does it not mean that some day the people will get their eyes open, take matters into their own hands and free themselves from the shackles that now blind them? It is only through the rank and file of the people that public service and other corporations are permitted to ride, rough shod, over the rights of the people. Liberal contributions to campaign funds; employing men of power and influence as "attorneys," and a liberal use of free passes among newspaper men and county politicians are the methods employed.

There is little difference in the rank and file of voters and taxpayers in Missouri. Whether they call themselves Democrats or Republicans, each is in favor of good government. Nor is there any difference between the politician of either party in Missouri. Each are after fat jobs at the expense of the voters and taxpayers. It is time the people were ridding themselves of that illusion that politicians are in politics for their health.

One Lucky Man.

"Do you have any trouble keeping your servant?"
"None. I'm married to her."—Chicago Times-Herald.

ABOUT CARDWELL.

In an effort to break the force of the facts brought out in the Cardwell-Republic libel suit the apologists and defenders of the State administration are actually engaged in trying to make the people believe that Mr. Cardwell is a very bad man. Some say Cardwell "sold out," while others assert that he "never got a cent and was glad to stop further developments." Some assail his record as a legislator, while others charge that he is playing into the hands of Republicans. They seem to think that if they can succeed in making the people believe that Cardwell is a rascal it will, to some extent, counteract that very foul smell that emanates from Jefferson City.

If Mr. Cardwell is so low and insignificant as they try to make it appear, then why did the great ex-chairman of the Democratic party and present Secretary of State rush into print to defend the gang against Cardwell's accusations? Will somebody please answer why? As a rule politicians do not "waste ammunition on dead ducks."

But what of Cardwell's reputation, character or standing? Can it change the testimony of Secretary of State Sam Cook, ex-Gov. Stephens and the others that were put under oath? Will some politician please point out the difference between Mr. Cardwell's charges in his Kansas City speech, and the testimony in the case—so far as it was permitted to go? Mr. Cardwell charged that the State committee, in effect, guaranteed to certain corporations immunity against unfriendly legislation in exchange for campaign funds. That Mr. Cardwell told the truth was admitted by every witness placed upon the stand—and especially by Mr. Cook. It was admitted that thousands of dollars had been contributed by the various corporations "attorneys" to the Democratic State committee. As the St. Louis Republic put it, Judge H. S. Priest, attorney for the St. Louis Transit company, raised six thousand dollars "among his friends." But for details the witnesses referred to Seibert.

Seibert was subpoenaed and refused to go. He was again subpoenaed with a tender of railroad fare and expenses—although it is well known that no State official or member of the State committee is required to pay railroad fare—but Seibert wouldn't go. When an attachment for him was issued it became a question as to which was the greater—the boss or the law—and to prevent the "law" having the appearance of "thirty cents" they put the cork in and stopped the whole affair by compromising, or settling with Cardwell.

And now the "rooters" say if Cardwell had been the right sort of a man he would not have accepted the money! Why not? Cardwell had made certain charges and these charges were admitted under oath by at least one of the men against whom the charges were directed, and corroborated by several others. His case was against the St. Louis Republic and not against the Democratic machine of Missouri! The Star Actor was about to be forced upon the witness stand and a man came representing himself to have authority from the Republic to settle the matter. Mr. Cardwell accepted \$7,500 and dismissed the case.

Had he not accepted this money Cardwell would have branded himself a rascal fool than "Thompson's colt." His case was proven to the satisfaction of every honest and unprejudiced mind, yet every citizen who is at all familiar with the "decisions" of our higher courts in such cases is aware that, had he continued, he would not have been awarded one cent—no matter what he might have been able to prove.

Say, reader, do you know that these "rooters," who are often what you believe to be your "best citizens," are hobbling along on their last legs in their efforts to throw dust in the eyes of the people? The KICKER is ready today, or any other day, to contribute fifty dollars toward having Mr. Seibert take the witness stand and explain the receipts and disbursements of that \$16,000 regarding which neither Mr. Cook nor Mr. Stephens were able to give the inside facts, but referred the court to Mr. Seibert. And before Mr. Seibert could be dragged to the witness stand they put a \$7,500 self-sealing cork in. That stopped all further proceedings and Seibert was released by the constable who had him in charge.

In order to form an idea what is meant by the "oath of office" which all public officials must take before entering upon the discharge of their duties, let us be well to peep over toward Kansas. Kansas is a prohibition state and it is a violation of the state constitution to either manufacture or sell spirituous or malt liquors. But Carrie Nations finds more saloons in Kansas than she can smash, and the officers of the law who are sworn to protect the constitution of the state, arrest Carrie and allow the rum sellers to continue at the old stand.

JOE RUSSELL'S POSITION.

In a recent letter to the Charleston Enterprise Mr. Russell tried to make plain his position on public questions. Judging from his letter and a personal chat with the writer, Mr. Russell is a strict "party" man and a strong defender of the present State administration. If the "party" declares for silver, then Mr. Russell is for silver. If the "party" declares against silver, then Mr. Russell is against silver. If the "party" declares for horse-stealing, then Mr. Russell is for horse-stealing. If the "party" declares against horse-stealing, then Mr. Russell is against horse-stealing. This seems to be the position of Mr. Russell.

So far as the KICKER is concerned, it does not take kindly to the class of men who are willing to swallow anything in order to get to hold the jobs. The KICKER admires men of opinions—men who will take a stand on public questions before the adoption of a platform as well as afterward. The man of prominence, who plays possum while the fight is going on within the party and, after the battle, goes to the victors and says "I'm with you," reminds one of the soldier who, during a fierce battle, crawled under the ammunition wagon where "shot and shell were thickest."

With reference to his position on the financial question, Mr. Russell writes:

"In 1896 I did express some doubt about the advisability of our party insisting upon the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 without pledging the party to maintain the parity between gold and silver."

Now, Mr. Russell claims to be a strict "party" man. At Pertle Springs, on the 6th day of August, 1895, the truest Democratic convention that ever gathered in Missouri, met and, among other resolutions, adopted the following:

"Resolved, 'That we, the Democratic party of Missouri, in convention assembled, demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the action or approval of any other nation.'"

The convention that passed the above resolution is the only really Democratic convention that has been held in the State for the past thirty years. It is the only political gathering to which the delegates were denied free transportation over the railroads. That convention declared for the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the ratio of 16 to 1. This was in August, 1895. And yet Mr. Russell says, "In 1896 I did express some doubt as to the advisability of our party insisting upon the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1."

Well, Mr. Russell was not alone in expressing "some doubt" about the ratio in 1896. The Republicans did exactly the same thing, and proposed to restore silver through an "international agreement." Senator Teller and other silver Republicans refused to swallow this sort of twaddle and left their party to support Mr. Bryan.

NOT A GOOD JOB.

The editor of the Democrat received a necktie and two railroad tickets for a Christmas present.—Cape Girardeau Democrat.

The appearance of the Democrat after the holidays is evidence that the "necktie" was not properly adjusted. The people of that county should elect a more competent sheriff.

WHEN a small-bore Democrat expresses a dislike for the ticket put up for him to swallow at the election he is denounced by the politicians as being "weak-kneed" and a "bolter," and he is sneered at and pointed out as a "traitor" by the "loyal" crowd. But when a high-up Democrat-for-revenue only votes the Republican ticket for years in succession, that high-up Democrat-for-revenue only is entitled to the Democratic nomination for mayor of the largest city in the state, and other bolters are rewarded by receiving high official appointments from a so-called Democratic state administration.

WHEN Mayor Wells of St. Louis, took an active part in behalf of Mr. McKinley and the entire Republican ticket in 1896 he severed his connection with the Jefferson Club. Since then he has voted the Republican ticket straight at every election and he is now again a member of the club—and a very conspicuous member at that. Will some Jefferson Club Democrat, or administration Democrat, please explain why things have come to such a pass in Missouri?

CAPITAL has long since discovered that there is nothing in that little story about competition being the life of trade. Capitalists want no competitors. They are socialists in no far as their particular class is concerned. They believe in cooperation among themselves, but would deny all others the right to cooperate. They are satisfied to stand together and live off the fat of the land, while the little fellows below scramble for the crumbs that fall from their tables and call it "competition."

THE FAKIRS AT WORK.

The political fakirs of Missouri turned another trick this week. About two weeks ago it was announced that a meeting of the various chairmen and secretaries of the Democratic county committees would meet in St. Louis. The ringsters pleaded ignorance of any knowledge of the intention or object of the meeting, yet the fact that the Jefferson Club rooms were offered as a headquarters caused the suspicion that if the gang had not instigated the meeting they would at least try to capture and control it.

But the ringsters are getting so clumsy they can no longer "hide the shells." In their frantic efforts to cover up, they upset the pot. Monday was the day set for the meeting and the Jefferson Club Jugs and bottles had all been freshly filled with "enthusiasm." It appears that the various chairmen and secretaries cared nothing about the meeting, since the object was kept a secret. As a result their proxies were obtained by men who hold jobs under the present State administration, and by administration "rooters," and in this way a gathering of about 200 assembled.

Early P. Ellis, formerly of this county, and at present a guard at the penitentiary under the Dockery administration, secured the proxy of Chairman Frazer. Residing in Jefferson City, and having no knowledge of the sentiment of the people here, of course Mr. Ellis was the proper man to represent Scott county on such occasions.

An effort was made by Ed Glenn, chairman of the Pike county committee, to re-affirm the Kansas City platform. He was howled down, but Mr. Glenn seemed determined to ascertain whether or not he was at a Democratic meeting, and read his resolution in spite of the noise. The resolution was referred to a committee and there "smothered." That crowd had no use for the Kansas City platform with that 16 to 1 declaration in it.

About one-half of the aggregation were pledged administration rooters who represented somebody by proxy. All the "big guns," from Seibert down to Dockery, were there. And there was also a "sprinkle" of unsophisticated rural rooters who didn't know what they were there for—and couldn't find out! Harry Hawes and others kept talking "harmony" and the "grand old Democratic party" until Ed Harber mounted the rostrum and announced that the "committee had unanimously agreed on the following address to the Democrats of Missouri." Then he read a great long string of stuff prepared by "Brown" and others about "pointing with pride" to the great achievements of the Democratic party in Missouri. Whether the "achievements" referred to were the selling out of legislatures in advance of their election, or the suppression of the Cardwell case was not made clear. However, somebody moved that the "address" stand. Somebody said "second the motion." The chair declared it carried. Then somebody moved to adjourn. Somebody said "second the motion," and the chair declared the meeting adjourned. All debate was cut off. Discussion was not desirable.

And now it is the duty of every cross-roads Democratic organ to tell its readers what a representative and harmonious meeting they had, and to print the "address." As a reward the next legislature will "appropriate" to each faithful cross-roads "editor" about \$150.00 of the people's money. On the surface it will appear that the "editor" is getting this money for publishing the constitutional amendments to be voted on next fall. But that is not true. The amendments are printed in all the papers—Republican and Democratic—for the information of the public, but the "pie" goes only to those who "stick to the party" through thick and thin. The KICKER will print the amendments this fall without expectation of reward, while our neighbor will receive in the neighborhood of \$150 of the people's money for exactly the same service—the only difference being that one sticks to the party while the other sticks to the "party."

SOMETHING more than a year ago, when the Rev. Chas. M. Sheldon took charge of the Topeka Capital for one week in order to conduct a metropolitan newspaper as he thought Christ would conduct it, a journalist asked the writer what he thought of the idea of creating a sensation by announcing that he would publish a paper for one week as he thought the Devil would publish it. The writer shook his head in disapproval and replied: "You only have to pick up any metropolitan newspaper to find a paper that is run as the Devil would run it."

In view of recent developments in this State, is it not about time for the Jefferson Club "patriots" to take another "pilgrimage" to the tomb of Jefferson in order to "rub up" and polish their Jeffersonian principles? Getting soiled again!

"No amount of dust throwing, sneering or subterfuge can relieve the Democratic party of the force of the facts brought out in the Cardwell case, the odium of the disgraceful manner in which further revelations were checked, and the attempts now making to mystify the public," says the Post-Dispatch, a newspaper that supported Gov. Dockery and the entire ticket during the last campaign.

Ten very fellows who shout "protection to American labor" during campaigns and then fill their factories with foreign pauper labor, are the very fellows who are now howling themselves hoarse in denunciation of so many undesirable foreigners being in the land.

For the next two years the people of Missouri deserve the sympathy of the balance of the world. It will be a continuous dose of World's Fair rot every time we pick up a metropolitan newspaper.

Things we call competition is not competition at all. It is just a mad scramble for existence. Some times it is carried so far that one brother kills another for the little property that is left.

It is a little queer that the organs that have most to complain of in regard to the Thayer meeting have not, as yet, heard of the Cardwell case. At any rate, they are saying nothing about it.

The editor sat in his easy chair, smoking his pipe of clay; when the farmer stepped in and threw down a "plunk"—and the editor faintly averted. P. S.—The foregoing is poetry.

The people have no rights which public service corporations are bound to respect. Hence, to prevent being run over from behind the people must own and control the public service corporations.

JEFFERSON CITY cannot claim a monopoly on "shell hiding." We have men right among us who have been quite successful in "hiding the shells" for the past quarter of a century.

The Missouri World.

The Missouri World, that able exponent of popular rights and sovereignty has this to say of public ownership of railroads:

"The government, that is the people, should own and operate the railroads. At the outset of railroad building, had the government built and operated them and continued to do so until now, and charged no more than companies have, the people would now entirely free from debt the vast railroad system, without cost to the people other than freight and passenger charges."

As it is, although the people have paid for every mile of road, they own no part of these highways.

A railroad is necessarily a monopoly because of its cost. Between many towns there is but one line and never will be more. Connecting the larger cities there are generally two or three lines and in some instances more. But two or three companies can easily get together on rates. Competition in railroad traffic is out of the question. There may be occasional rate wars, but these are for a short time only, and for the purpose of forcing an agreement as to rates or compelling a sale.

The evils of private ownership of railroads are many. Railroads breed other monopolies by reason of lower rates to some than to others. They are in politics, packing legislative bodies and courts with their friends. They charge the rates that will bring them the most profits. They maintain lobbies at all capitals.

Political conventions of ruling parties are dominated by them. With free transportation to their friends and special free trains if need be—they succeed in most cases in defeating men who would be true to the people's interests and in getting nominated men who will not interfere with their methods of business.

Truth Stranger Than Fiction.

You may, for instance, hire 5,000 men to build a railroad for you. At the end of the year you have the road and the men have nothing. You are richer and they are poorer. You are richer than at the beginning of the year because your capital put into a railroad will bring you interest. The men are poorer because one year older, and their labor, strength and time is their only wealth. You have gained at their expense. This was possible because you did not pay them for the strength they expended. That is to say, they have given you their labor as a free gift. The wages you pay them did not pay for their labor, it only kept them alive while they were working for you. This is always true when labor is paid only a living wage. You no more paid them for their labor than you pay for your horse when you buy him and oats to feed him. For the horse, moreover, you had to pay a purchase price, but the human animal you can get for nothing. You can get all you want of this labor today for nothing. It is cheaper than slavery, for you had to buy a negro slave before you could exploit him (a good negro used to cost \$1,000), and you had to feed him besides. But free white labor you can get in the open market today in any amount for the sole cost of its keep. That this is so, is owing to the power of Capital to dictate to Labor.—American Fabian.

Notice to Republicans.

A meeting of the Republican Central Committee is hereby called to meet at the courthouse, in St. Louis, on Saturday, January 16, 1903, to select a chairman and transient each other business as may come up.

CHAS. L. PROFFY, Sec.

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

The next issue of the Scott County Kicker will Turn the Search-Light on the last Senatorial nomination

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GERMAN PROFESSORS.

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The price of brains in Germany, like other marketable commodities, seems to be regulated by the law of supply and demand. There was pointed out to me the other day one of the most eminent and learned scholars in the world, whose compensation for the last eight or ten years has been \$52 a month, and the good man seems to be satisfied with his income. Another of the most famous pundits in Germany has been living on \$60 a month since he could remember, with an occasional honorarium from some magazine for an article. We have heard how much Mr. Astor pays his cook and Mr. Whitney the jockey that rides his horses at the races, and the profits derived by the authors of sensational novels are enough to hire a whole faculty of the ablest and most learned German professors.

As a rule salaries are much lower in this country than in the United States, except in a few official positions. The ministers of the empire receive three or four times the amount paid to our cabinet ministers in Washington, and they all have handsome houses to live in free of cost and servants paid by the government, but their subordinates have about one-third of the salaries paid to men occupying similar positions in the executive department of the United States.—W. E. Curtis, in Chicago Record-Herald.

GAS EATS UP OXYGEN.

Why Ventilation is Necessary When Rooms Are Lighted.

Some interesting calculations were made the other day to show why extra ventilation is necessary at night when the rooms are lighted.

That the amount of oxygen in a room is decreased alarmingly by our methods of illumination the following simple statements show:

A man may exist for an hour in a fair-sized room hermetically sealed if he has no light burning. Place a lighted candle in that room with him and his existence will be shortened by 15 minutes.

If he has a lamp instead of a candle in order to make himself more comfortable with additional light, he would live only half an hour.

If he had two good gas burners, he would scarcely have time to make his will, for he would not live more than five minutes.—N. Y. World.

Poor Advertisement.

A business man who gets drunk and reels around the streets is getting a mighty big advertisement; but it isn't a good one.—Atchison Globe.

STORY OF WOMAN'S DEVOTION

Cost Her \$6,000, and She Married Another Fellow at That.

A remarkable story of a woman's devotion to the man she loved is evolved from a decision handed down by the Illinois supreme court. It probably ends one of the most famous suits of the McLean county courts. It has been running the gamut of the upper and lower benches for seven years. When Charles Whitney fled from Cleveland, O., in 1894, and expects put to work on his books by his employers, Daykin Bros., showed that he was short \$10,000 in his accounts, the first chapter was written. Olga Greenwaldt, a society girl of this city, loved Whitney, and at once took steps to get him out of the scrape. She exerted every effort to settlement with Daykin Bros., and finally succeeded in securing an agreement from them to cancel the indebtedness by the payment of \$6,000. Miss Greenwaldt owned a three-story business building here, valued at \$10,000, and she offered to give this to Thomas Paige, of Cleveland, O., a friend of Whitney, as security for the loan of \$6,000. Paige finally agreed, but when he sought possession of the property he was denied, and later was made a defendant in a suit to set aside this agreement and to secure the return of the \$6,000.

Miss Greenwaldt did not marry Whitney, as was predicted, but instead married a Peorian named Hieronymous. The case was fought in the various courts, and many adverse decisions were handed down. Now comes the supreme court reversing the previous ruling awarding the property to the woman, and instead gives it to Paige. The higher court finds that Paige was an innocent party in the efforts to free Whitney, and that he was innocent of the alleged compounding of a felony. Paige is now privileged to secure possession of the property so long in litigation. Whitney, who was the object of Miss Greenwaldt's friendship, is now in China.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

H. J. STOLZ,
Blacksmith and
Horse-Shoer,

Manufacturer of Wagons,
Spring Wagons, Buggies,
Farm and Spring Wagons
on hand.

Scientific horse-shoeing a
specialty. Diseases of the
feet treated. KELSO, Mo.